



December 2024

*St. Mary's Episcopal Church:  
Serving with JOY!*  
**The Bell Ringer**

Online at [www.stmaryskinston.com](http://www.stmaryskinston.com)

*Advent*

Begins Sunday, December 1st

Join us in Moseley Hall at 9:30am for Advent wreath making!

*Christmas Eve*

Tuesday, December 24th

5:00pm ~ Rite 2 in the Church

Live Nativity Pageant

Music from City Lights Jazz

*Childcare Staff Available*

10:30pm ~ Special Music in the Church

11:00pm ~ Midnight Mass

Festal Eucharist: Rite 2 in the Church

*No Childcare Staff Available*

*Christmas Day*

Wednesday, December 25th

10:30am ~ Rite 2 in the Chapel

Pajamas welcome!

*No Childcare Staff Available*



## From the Rector

### *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!*

The words of one of the most recognizable songs of the season begin with a prayer request: Come, Lord, be with us, be among us, be in our lives and bring the health, the healing, the strength, the peace that only You can bring. That is the prayer of the church universal, as well as each individual believer's heart in the season of Advent, as we await two things: (1) the annual celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas and (2) the promised return of Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords.

I wonder, what is it that you long for? I don't mean in the often-lighthearted "What do you want for Christmas" sense. I mean, what are the much deeper yearnings of the soul? As you move through this sacred month, it is among my prayers that we will all give this question serious consideration, and then bring them to our Heavenly Father, through His Son, and in the power of the Holy Spirit. God loves every part of creation and wants us to have fullness of life through faith in Him and so, as the hymn models, we should not hesitate to open our hearts and bid God to enter in afresh this season. In so doing, may you also hear the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel that this song also affirms:

### *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee...*

Just as Emmanuel, the Christ, came to Israel in the birth of Jesus some 2000 years ago, so the Lord comes to you, dear friend, to make you whole. Rejoice! And share that Good News with those around you. Won't you join us in our Advent and Christmas JOY in these days? I hope to see you soon, and share in the ministries to which we are called together.

Yours in Christ Jesus,



### Get ready for Boar's Head 2025!

Join us for the **33rd Annual Boar's Head & Pule Log Festival** on Sunday, January 5th at the traditional 3p.m. and 5p.m. times. There is no cost to attend the festival itself. A ticketed banquet follows the 5pm performance. Tickets for the banquet are \$50 per person and are on sale now! Tickets may be purchased in the church office or online at [www.stmaryskinston.com](http://www.stmaryskinston.com). Be sure to include your telephone number and email address for any online purchase.



#### Choir Rehearsals:

Sunday Dec 1, 2024 2:00-3:30pm  
 Sunday Dec 8, 2024 2:00-3:00pm  
 Sunday Dec 15, 2024 2:00-3:30pm  
 Sunday Dec 22, 2024 2:00-3:30pm

#### Costume Fittings:

Wednesday, December 4, 3:30-7:30pm  
 Sunday, December 8, 11:30am-3:30pm  
 Wednesday, December 11, 3:30-7:30pm  
 Sunday, December 15th, 11:30am-3:30pm  
 Sunday, December 18, 3:30-7:30pm

#### Rehearsal Schedule:

Sunday Dec 29, 2024 - 4:00pm - Spot rehearsals  
 Monday Dec 30, 2024 - 6:00pm - Spot rehearsals  
 Thursday Jan 2, 2025 - 6:00pm - Spot rehearsals  
 Friday Jan 3, 2025 6:00pm - Full cast rehearsal  
 Saturday Jan 4, 2025 9:00am -  
 Full cast dress rehearsal

#### Performances:

Sunday, January 5th, at 3pm & 5pm

## The Episcopal Church

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### In the Anglican Communion

A global community of 80 million Anglicans in 38 member provinces/churches.

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### In the United States

A community of 1.9 million members in 118 dioceses in the Americas and abroad.

Established in 1788.

Presiding Bishop

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe

Episcopal Church Center

815 2nd Avenue

New York, N.Y. 10017 212-716-6000

[www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)

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### In the Diocese of East Carolina

A community of more than 15,000 communicants in 70 churches.

Founded in 1883.

The Rt. Rev. Robert S. Skirving

Diocesan Office, 705 Doctors Dr.

P.O. Box 1336, Kinston, NC 28503

Tel: 252-522-0885

Fax: 252-523-5272

[www.diocese-eastcarolina.org](http://www.diocese-eastcarolina.org)

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### St. Mary's Episcopal Church

"Serving with JOY!!"

**J**esus First,

**O**thers Second,

**Y**ourself Last"

800 Rountree Street

Kinston, NC 28501-3655

Tel: 252-523-6146

Fax: 252-523-5134

[www.stmaryskinston.com](http://www.stmaryskinston.com)

Rector	The Rev'd Thomas P.H. Warren
Sr. Warden	Mr. Jess Edwards
Jr. Warden	Mr. Jim Purnell
Parish Administrator	Mrs. Lori Kelly
Minister of Music	Mr. Sam Holt
Communications Director	Mrs. Sherry Tanner
Mary's Kitchen Executive Director	Mr. Jim Godfrey

## News at St. Mary's

### From the Parish Register

#### Baptisms:

*November 3rd, 2024*

Wofford "Shade" Weller

Christella LeighAnne Crumbacker

Emily Grace Perry

Johnathan Clyde Perry

Anberlee Rylan Johnson

Peyton Nora Johnson

Emily Elizabeth Wright

Nancy Pearl Faulkner Crumbacker

Richard Crumbacker, Jr - *Reaffirmation*

*November 3rd, 2024*

Ellis Marie Sermons

#### Transfers In:

*November 16th, 2024*

Amanda Shirley

*November 21, 2024*

Emily and Tyndall Davis

*November 25, 2024*

Josie, Jeffrey, Joseph ("Jack"), and James Braswell  
(from Christ Church ~ Raleigh)

### CHERISHED MEMBERS' LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH, 2024  
11:00AM IN MOSELEY HALL

SPECIAL MUSIC FROM THE CHILDREN OF  
ST. MARY'S NURSERY SCHOOL

PLACE YOUR NAME ON THE SIGN UP SHEET IN  
THE NARTHEX OR CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

Mary's Kitchen Board of Directors  
invites you and a guest  
to attend the annual

*Volunteer and Donor  
Holiday Gathering*

Sunday, December 15, 2024  
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Moseley Hall  
St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
800 Rountree Street  
Kinston, North Carolina 28501  
RSVP by 5:00 PM on Dec 13th  
to [maryskitchen@stmaryskinston.com](mailto:maryskitchen@stmaryskinston.com)

### Parish Christmas Closures

Tuesday, December 24th

Wednesday, December 25th

Thursday, December 26th

*May God bless you  
and your families!*

## More News at St. Mary's

WELCOME  
BABY!

We celebrate the birth of Oliver James Hart, born on October 16th, to Tilden & Cam Hart in Charleston. Oliver's joyful grandparents include Louise & Armistead Mauck, and Madison & Taylor Ellis are thrilled to be his Aunt & Uncle. We also celebrate the birth of Vienna Blu Elliott, born on November 23 to Madison & Tripp Elliott in Charlotte. Vienna's joyful grandparents include Bonnie & Bob Enders. Please hold these children and their families in your prayers!

Let us pray: *O God, you have taught us through your blessed Son that whoever receives a little child in the name of Christ receives Christ himself: We give thanks for the blessing you have bestowed upon the Hart, Mauck, Ellis, Elliott, & Enders families in giving Oliver & Vienna to them. Confirm their joy by a lively sense of your presence with them, and give them calm strength and patient wisdom as they seek to bring them to love all that is true and noble, just and pure, lovable and gracious, excellent and admirable, following the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.*



St. Mary's

### COOKIE WALK!

A HURRICANE HELENE RESPONSE EVENT  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 - 11AM-1PM

This event is always filled with holiday cheer and generosity, and this year will be no different. Hand-select and fill your boxes with beautiful and delicious holiday treats for \$10 per pound. A homemade soup lunch is also served for \$8, so come hungry! Church members are asked to bake any kind of cookie for the sale and invite all your friends! Please drop off cookies to the church office from December 9th-12th during business hours or bring them to the parlor on Friday, December 13th from 9am-5pm. As another way to reach out and support our neighbors in Western NC after Hurricane Helene, the proceeds from this year's Cookie Walk will be directed towards their recovery efforts. Please mark your calendars, prepare your holiday cookie recipes, and pray for this special event to be another outward and visible sign of God's compassionate care.

*Poinsettias on the Altar  
for the Christmas liturgies*

*Honor or remember a loved one*

Use the envelopes in the Narthex or call  
the Parish Office (252-523-6147)



### Poinsettias for Christmas

At the Christmas liturgies, the altars and chancel are decorated with a sea of poinsettias in celebration of Christ's birth and given in memory or honor of loved ones. Contributions of any amount are welcome. If you would like to remember a loved one or offer flowers in thanksgiving for someone, you may use the special offering envelopes found on the Narthex tables or you may email Sherry at [stanner@stmaryskinston.com](mailto:stanner@stmaryskinston.com). Checks should be made out to St. Mary's Church, and please remember to include the name(s). Monday, December 16th is the deadline to ensure that names will appear in the Christmas bulletins.

## Christmas CAROLING

Let the spirit of the holidays bring us together for a night of joy, laughter, and caroling while we spread good cheer to our neighbors and friends! Let's make this holiday season unforgettable!

22  
DECEMBER

MEET AT THE CHURCH  
PARKING LOT  
AT 4:00 PM



Please join our merry group of  
decorators as we beautify the  
church for Christmas!

Sunday, December 22nd

12:00pm

Contact Jo Parrott  
for details or questions.

The  
Hanging  
of the  
Greens



## Worship

Join us for the

# ORDINATION

of



**JON SARGEANT**

December 8, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.  
St. Mary's, Kinston



### The Ordination of Jon Sargeant to the Sacred Order of Priests

Your prayers and presence are requested on Sunday, December 8th, at 5pm at St. Mary's Episcopal Church for the ordination of Jon Sargeant to the Sacred Order of Priests by the Right Reverend Robert Stuart Skirving, Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina. Friends from near and far will be coming to share in this joy, and we hope you will join us in this special event! A reception in Moseley Hall will follow the service. May God richly bless, not only this evening, but especially the life and ministry of Jon in all the times to come!

### Annual Parish Meeting

Again this year, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held during the 10:30am liturgy on Sunday, December 8th. The Annual Report will be available online and in hard copy that Sunday morning. We do not anticipate the service to last much longer than usual that day. After the Peace and before the Offertory we will have an uncontested election by voice for the next 4-person Vestry class prepared by the Vestry's Nominating Committee reflecting the nominating ballots received last month (*read more about those nominees on page 7*).



We will also elect lay delegates and alternates for the Diocesan Convention to be held in the fall of 2025. The Vestry, Wardens, & Rector are grateful for all who serve Christ and His church here at St. Mary's!



### Christmas Gifts for Foster Children

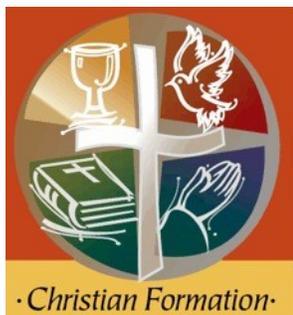
Once again the members of St. Mary's have the opportunity to provide Christmas gifts for the foster children in our community. Please review the posted wishlist in the Narthex for the few remaining children and contact Becky Darst (252-521-9800) if you would be willing to shop for one of them. The gifts will be prayed over at the 10:30 service on December 8th and delivered the next day. On each gift please include the child's name, age, and gender. Also it is helpful to include receipts. Contributions are welcomed and may be brought to the Office. Please consider choosing a child and making this blessing a meaningful part of Christmas this year. Thank you for generously supporting this program!



### Save the date for an Easter Retreat at Glory Ridge in Madison County, NC: April 21-24, 2025

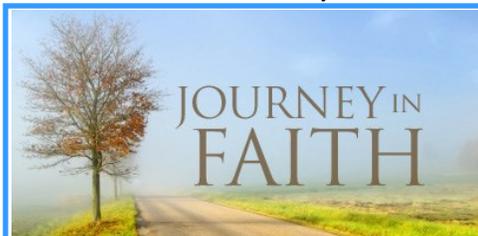
Come for a guided retreat with Fr. Tom as part of the Journey in Faith groups (see page 6), a family time of rest & renewal, a time of work for hurricane recovery, or some of all! More details to come!

# Christian Formation



## Christian Formation for All Ages

All are invited to join us each Sunday at 9:30am for Christian Formation. St. Mary's offers lessons for all ages as well as available Childcare Staff for the smallest members of our church. High school and younger age groups share activities related to the Scripture readings in Sunday worship. On December 8th and 15th, the Adult Forum, led by Fr. Tom, will continue the series on the Christian Burial and Ministries at the End of Life. On December 22nd, we are excited for a session led by Fr. Tom on the history, theology, and art of the Boar's Head Festival.



Journey in Faith, and Youth Journey in Faith for high schoolers, is a series of interactive sessions through which the basics of the Christian faith, Anglican tradition, and Episcopal Church are explored. JiF & YJiF can also be ways for folks to move toward the Church's sacraments of initiation (baptism or confirmation) or reaffirmation of faith when Bishop Skirving visits St. Mary's next May. An informational meeting about Jif and YJiF will be on **Sunday, Dec 18** after the 10:30 liturgy in the Parlor.

## Children, Youth & Families at St. Mary's



The **Little Way Chapel** Advent and Christmas Guides are available to enhance your family's Advent and Christmas seasons. These beautiful packets feature daily prayers, activities, & music beginning in Advent and continuing through the 12 days of Christmas! Families on our email list were sent an email on Nov 18 with a link to the guides. If you'd like to have a guide printed in color, or if you didn't receive the email, please call the church office and we will be happy to help!



Our 5pm liturgy on Christmas Eve will feature the proclamation of the Gospel through the Nativity Pageant. Check upcoming weekly emails and bulletins for updates. If you'd like to help, please be in touch with Josie Braswell, Barbara Crumbacker, Mara Moye, Robin Simms, Sherry Tanner, and Sarah Warner!



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

Many thanks to the youth and adult leaders who prepared and served the meal at Mary's Kitchen, continuing a long-standing Day-Before-Thanksgiving tradition!



## Your Next Vestry Class



**ROB BIZZELL** - Rob grew up in Mt. Olive until he attended UNC-CH and graduated with his degree in Pharmacy. He is the founder of Realo Discount Drug Stores and co-founder of Carolina Home Medical, both in several locations in Eastern North Carolina. Rob has held many positions in civic and professional organizations as well as appointed positions by two NC Governors. Rob has two adult children, Elizabeth Bizzell Saylor and Margaret Reams Bizzell, and two granddaughters, Caroline Davis Saylor and Eleanor Elizabeth Saylor. Rob is an active member of St. Mary's and has served previously on the Vestry, the Capital Campaign Committee, the Long-Range Planning Committee (Chair), the Finance Committee, and the Investment Committee.



**FRANCES HERRING** - Frances has been a member of St. Mary's for thirty-four years and has served Lenoir County Public Schools for twenty-two years: She was the 2014 North Carolina Region 2 Principal of the Year and served on the State Superintendent's Principal Advisory Council. She is a proud graduate of UNC-CH as well as The Cumberland School of Law. Frances is married to Mark, and they have two children, Jane and Jack. She has served on the Vestry and currently is the co-director of The Boar's Head Festival.



**SARAH WARNER** - Sarah is a lifelong Episcopalian and lives in Kinston with her husband, Dee. They have two adult children, Lillian and Dee. Sarah has enjoyed serving on the Altar Guild for many years. She is a former ECW President. Sarah taught Sunday School and also was a teacher at St. Mary's Nursery School. She has enjoyed helping with Cherished Members' Luncheons and Boar's Head productions. Sarah recently served on the Alpha cook team and is planning for the upcoming Mary's Kitchen fundraiser Bingo Night.



**HARRY WOOTEN** - Harry has been a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church for over fifty-five years. He participates and contributes to the church as an Usher and in the Boar's Head Festival. He has served on the Vestry as Junior Warden and on the Search Committee. The love and commitment Harry has for St. Mary's began as a young child and continues to grow. Harry is a landscape contractor and has been in business for over thirty years. He married his wife, Crystal, in 1990, and they have three children, Reid, Lilli, and Ellie.

### STEWARDSHIP

**Year-End Contributions:** All contributions to St. Mary's Church for 2024 must be received in the church office no later than 12pm on Tuesday, December 31, 2024 to be credited for 2024. Final year-end statements will be mailed in mid-January.

**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**  
**800 Rountree Street**  
**Kinston, NC 28501-3655**



### **ST. MARY'S BLOOD DRIVE**

St. Mary's will host a blood drive on **Tuesday, December 31st** from **12:00-4:00pm** in Moseley Hall. To help your time go more smoothly, make a reservation at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

**Give a give that counts this year...give LIFE.**

### **SUNDAYS**

*(Childcare available 8:45am-Noon)*

- 8:00 am - Holy Eucharist: Rite 1 in the All Saints' Chapel
- 9:00 am - Parish Breakfast in Moseley Hall
- 9:30 am - Christian Formation for All Ages
- 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist: Rite 2 in the Church  
(livestreamed to YouTube and shared in Facebook)
- Staffed nursery available 8:45am-Noon.

### **TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**

- 8:30 am - Morning Prayer in the All Saints' Chapel

### **WEDNESDAYS**

*(Childcare available 5:45pm-8pm)*

- 7:00 am - Men's Prayer & Bible Group in Moseley Hall
- 6:00 pm - Supper & Programming for all ages

### **ST. MARY'S VESTRY**

2024  
 Rob Bizzell  
 Jess Edwards  
 Jo Parrott  
 Ginny Wade

Senior Warden – Jess Edwards  
 Clerk – Andrew Duppstadt

2025  
 Andrew Duppstadt  
 Bonnie Holton  
 Anne Lindley  
 Jim Purnell

2026  
 Richard Crumbacker  
 Corey Fader  
 Randy Spaugh  
 Kay Turner

Junior Warden – Jim Purnell  
 Treasurer – Corey Fader